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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its twentieth anniversary

Statement submitted by Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer, German Foundation for World Population, International Federation of University Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, IPAS, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Population Action International, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, Vaestoliitto — Family Federation of Finland and World Population Foundation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement*

1. The Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in September 1994 and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session, held in New York from 30 June to 2 July 1999, represent a paradigm shift away from a traditional, macro-demographic perspective towards one of sustainable development that places human rights at the centre of population and development policies. The Programme of Action is a comprehensive document that addresses a wide range of issues particularly sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and women's empowerment, while at the same time recognizing the impact of concerns such as population and environment, including climate change and aspects of migration.

2. Recognizing that many Governments may not have met all the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action by 2014, we strongly support the call for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest level to achieving these goals and objectives and to reaffirm the Programme of Action, upholding its principles, and its key actions for their further implementation beyond 2014, to ensure their full achievement, as set out in Resolution A/RES/65/234 on Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

3. The above-signed NGOs welcome the decision of the General Assembly to convene a Special Session during its sixty-ninth session to assess the status of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. We consider the full participation of civil society, including marginalized populations and young people, as essential to the continued implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. We, therefore, look forward to participating fully in the Special Session and to working with the Commission on the Population and Development in the preparations for this important meeting.

4. We, together with our colleagues at the national level, will collaborate with Governments in assessing the progress made to date, obstacles that remain and strategies to overcome them. This will be done in line with the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be undertaken by the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with Member States and others.

5. Finally, as non-governmental organizations, we stand ready to promote the full implementation of the Programme of Action through our programmes and activities in the years leading up to 2014 and beyond, while recognizing the important role that civil society, including marginalized populations and young people can play as full partners in its implementation from a gender-based and human rights perspective.

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.